

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, October 5, 2009

Andrews School Conference Room

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair), Paul Brule and Karen Lynch

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Edward Mara, Melinda Thies, Jane Correia and George Simmons

Guests: Representatives of Maguire Group—Edward Spinard and David Westcott

Representatives of Gifford Design Group—George Gifford, Kevin Alverson,

Steve Cabral and Bruce Haggerman

Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

Mt. Hope High School Athletic Field Concept Master Plan

The Subcommittee had decided to interview the two lowest bidders for the project, Maguire and Gifford, to get a clearer understanding of

their bids.

Executive Session – 7:19 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Paul Brule motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:19 PM to interview bidders for the athletic fields project. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resumption of Meeting – 8:21 PM

Contract and bid submittals were discussed in Executive Session.

About the athletic facilities, George said we still cannot hold state track meets, despite the upgrades, but we can have regulation track meets; Roger Williams did have a track meet here. Bill O’Dell said the \$2.2M plan included grandstands; Karen said that was the high end option. George added that the Athletic Director asked that the softball field be re-directed because third base is supposed to be the only one facing the sun.

Paul favors going with the lowest bidder, Maguire, because all the architects are very good and the economy is influencing the bids. Karen was fearful that if a mistake is made, once it is done it is done; she would hate to make a mistake for the \$18,000 difference between

the two bidders. George commented that what he thinks Crossman is referring to is DEM approval because DEM has a reputation of being difficult. Karen asked if it was worth it to give them a generic list so direct comparisons can be easily made. George felt Gifford's price was higher because of the engineering piece. Bill commented that he did not mind paying extra if he knows what he is getting. Ed was confident with Maguire; his only reservation was Gifford did the design. Melinda wondered if there are other issues that Maguire might not be privy to. Paul said anything could be unearthed, an Indian site, a large rock; but he liked that Maguire was going to use a sand base and drains off to the sides and landscaping. Melinda was concerned that he presented only one technique for the top. Karen feared that if something comes up during construction and more testing needed, Maguire would not do it because of the extra cost. Bill reminded the group this is a money discussion, we did not ask for a demonstration.

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to award the bid to Maguire, the lowest bidder. Karen was very afraid something might go wrong. Paul said our insurance company would go to their bonding company. There was no second.

Karen then admitted her father, an architect, reviewed the plans, gave her a list of questions, and told her he would have no problem going with the low bidder. However, Karen was very unsure on how to vote.

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to award the bid to Maguire, the lowest bidder. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 2 to 1 with Bill O'Dell opposed.

A recommendation will be made to the full School Committee by the Superintendent, support by a majority vote of the Budget Subcommittee.

Adjournment

MOTION: At 9:00 PM Paul Brule motioned to adjourn; Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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